Persons arrested under POTO

1817. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested under the POTO throughout the country till date; and

(b) the details of action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 (POTO) was promulgated on 24.10.2001 and re-promulgated as Prevention of Terrorism (Second) Ordinance, 2001 on 30.12.2001. This Ministry has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory administrations to take all necessary steps for implementing the provisions of POTO. Since Law and Order is a State subject, the information regarding number of persons arrested under the POTO throughout the country is not centrally maintained in this Ministry.

Additional provision in POTO

1818. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items "POTO may get more teeth" appeared in The Hindustan Times dated the 15th February, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to make same additional provisions in the Prevention of Terrorism Bill to make the penalty clauses more stringent;

(c) the details of the provisions proposed to be made; and

(d) by when the new law is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.